

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Community Focus Group: Monument Community Partnership
Held at the Monument First Five Center
Concord, California
May 29, 2008**

Question 1

1. Which of the following strategies should be a higher priority?	
A. Spending transportation funds to maintain the existing system of roads and the existing bus, rail and ferry services in the region	7
B. Spending transportation funds to build new roads and add more bus, rail and ferry services in the region	11

- I think that A is very important. Maintenance is important; without the system, we wouldn't have anything.
- A, but it was a tough choice.
- I use transportation a lot, for 20 years. I like what I use and it works for a lot of people in the future.
- A, because you have to keep transportation in order. B would be very costly.
- B because I don't use public transit., but my neighbors do. They say it takes them very long to get anywhere. If we could add a little bit more, not a lot, it would help.
- I chose B because \$190 billion is already committed to maintenance. Also, people who use public transit say it takes a long time and it doesn't go where it needs to go.
- I chose B because I ride transit a lot and it doesn't run a lot or at all. If you want to go to the park, shopping, it's a problem.
- I chose B because I like new things. I think we need change, new light rail, other transit, etc.

Question 2

2. How much of the \$30 billion dollar budget should be spent on maintaining local streets and roads, state highways, and public transit systems?	
A. Up to 25% (\$7.5 billion)	5
B. Up to 50% (\$15 billion)	10
C. Up to 75% (\$22.5 billion)	3
D. 100% (\$30 billion)	0

- If I write down 25%, where is the other money going to go?
- 25% because you already have maintenance taken care of.
- A, because we have new things coming and need money for it.
- Let's do things we haven't thought of before. That's why I like A.
- I chose 50% because I would like to create a grant to pay for a center for kids to go to school, to help get them to school.
- I chose B because the community's changing and we need to add new options.
- I chose C because I would like to maintain the streets, keep them cleaner. The streets are dirty.
- I like C because there might be a chance that the cost of transit wouldn't be so high, or a different cost for students.
- B because I want buses with air conditioning, or maintaining the buses so that the air works.
- B because we want to maintain the system to entice new users.

- B because I want _ to go to maintenance so that the buses are maintained. I am happy when the buses are in good condition. The other money should go to increase (headways) and/or new routes.
- B because I want good buses, with good air conditioning, etc. Safety is important too, though. We have issues, bus drivers can't cope with all that's going on in the bus. We need safety during peak hours.
- I want a bus route for mother's, especially for the WICK program. I give them rides now...many have baby strollers. They lose appointments because the buses aren't on time.

Question 3

3. If you didn't spend all \$30 billion dollars on maintenance projects, where would you spend the rest of the funds?

- I would spend the rest of the money on new roads, ferry, bus service.
- I would spend it on new transit. Not new roads...it means new development and more development means more people, congestion, etc.
- We need a disaster preparedness plan. We need to know what to do during a disaster.
- Alternate methods of transportation, different rail, ferry, anything but a car.
- I commuted for many, many years and late at night, it's scary. We need better security.
- I want to add different routes. Places for teenagers to go, safe places. A place like a teen center to have them avoid at risk activities.
- More buses, give grants to students, expand routes, and create routes especially for seniors for increased safety.
- A bus just for teenagers...we could fix it up.
- Expand Route 8 to weekends.
- Money toward emissions reduction because my children have asthma. We need cleaner air.
- Expand Route 8 because the people I survey say they need to go to Martinez and we need to go to a center there.
- Energy efficiency. We need more efficient vehicles.
- Route 8: increase service to evenings.

Question 4

4. Which of the following projects should be a higher investment priority for the region's transportation system?	
A. Spending transportation funds on the highway system to relieve traffic congestion, including ramp metering, high-occupancy toll lanes, etc.	3
B. Spending transportation funds on public transit options, including rail and buses to provide alternatives to driving	11
C. Spending transportation funds on walking paths and bicycle lanes to provide alternatives to driving	4

- A, because congestion is horrible, esp. during commute hours. HOT is a good idea. Good ideas, A.
- A because I drive a lot and I think that this one covers all of the needs. You always get on the highway and it is always congested. I like ramp metering.
- A would be postponing the problem...more transit would fix the problem.
- B is better because if more people ride the bus, there would be less congestion. Save gas, improve air quality, etc.
- I think that it would be good to have more help for students. Many parents take their kids to school and they need help.
- I like B because gas prices are higher than ever. We need transit that works for everyone.
- I like C because it focuses on people who walk. Mothers with children in strollers.

- I like C because people will use public transit and it's working now. Walking paths and bicycle lanes are the next generation, for the next generation. I am a stay at home mom and I walk and bike everywhere.
- For me it's both B and C. For students, B.

Question 5

5. What's the one improvement that could be made to public transportation that would increase ridership?
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- It's too expensive. Better fares.
- Safety, make transit safer.
- Better scheduling, better frequency.
- The trips take a long time, wants express buses.
- In our area, we can't get any place directly on public transit. We always have to transfer. Affordability, transfers, we can't get where we need to go, especially jobs. They aren't always in our area, the buses don't always go where the jobs are.
- I took three buses to work and they have the express bus. Is that a possibility for this area?
- I support grants for students.
- Marketing that explains the schedule. Better Web sites, especially for County Connection. TV commercials, reach out to schools. Translated materials, parking at BART, incentives.

Question 6

6. Which of the following should be a higher priority?	
A. Providing more transportation funds to communities that are planning to build more housing along BART and other public transit lines	7
B. Providing transportation funds evenly to communities regardless of where they are planning to build homes	12

- I like B. If it's evenly distributed among all communities. We don't have enough transportation in the neighborhoods as it is...all neighborhoods need coverage.
- Part of it is new building...if there is transport there, you can distribute it evenly. It's already at BART.
- B because people want to live out with gardens and they need transit, too.
- Developers are over-building. We have an excess of apartments and homes and who is buying? Where are the jobs going to come from.
- A, because cities and planning commissions need to look at the type of growth they are promoting. We need to get smarter about growth.
- A because if we think of what we are planning for Concord and we think that it's connected to make it closer to BART. If we just do B, think about Alamo, Danville and San Ramon, they drive their big cars and things won't change.

Question 7

7. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "There should be a subsidy for low-income riders."	
A. Strongly Agree	12
B. Agree	3
C. Neutral	4
D. Disagree	0
E. Strongly Disagree	0

- I agree because I think it's a good opportunity for all people to take public transportation, more people will use it.
- When you look at the population, most low-income people have older cars and their cars have high emissions.
- I also think that the people who take the bus don't have a car. They don't have the money to spend it on the bus...mothers of children take buses also. So the discounts should be for everybody, people of low income.
- The price of gas is high and we need to take the bus.
- It's like Carol said because people prefer to use public transport because of the price of gas.
- I am neutral...I have no objection, but I know how hard it is for seniors to get a pass. How would you implement this?
- Same for me on this, I am neutral.
- Very hard to find out who's low income....my income is just over the line. So, it would be very difficult to verify.
- Cut all fares, not just for some. I prefer students, families with kids, elderly should get a discount. All people are riding the bus because they need to.

Question 8

8. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: <i>"I favor basing all transit fare subsidies on income rather than age or disability."</i>	
A. Strongly Agree	12
B. Agree	4
C. Neutral	0
D. Disagree	2
E. Strongly Disagree	1

- If you can afford it, you shouldn't get a discount. If you have a disability, you will still ride it.
- How do you prove your income? It's easier by age, because that's easier to verify. We can't turn away people...process is potentially difficult.
- Administration will be costly.
- Everyone wants a free ride. I see more abuses with the system if you base discounts on income. The rich may take advantage of the system.
- A lot of the homeless would board using scams. A lot of people would be abusing the system just to get a cheaper ride.
- I can't decide because the question isn't a good one. I think the people who have a disability or a senior should be treated in a respectful way. I would also like people of low income to have respect. I am torn.
- The Link is used as paratransit system here....we need more. There are a lot of problems with it.
- Senior discount here is only during non-commute hours.
- I also like feel that the question isn't well done because it says "based on income" not low income. It's contrary to #7. People who are older and people with disabilities don't have a lot of income. We know that people who have a lot of money and are rich...I am neutral.

Question 9

9. Which of the following should be a higher priority?	
A. Reducing tailpipe emissions and encouraging alternatives to driving, such as public transit, bicycling, walking, etc.	15
B. Reducing traffic congestion and improving traffic flow to make it easier	4

to drive around the Bay Area	
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A: Reducing tailpipe emissions and encouraging alternatives to driving ...

- Pro-transit
- for Asthma, better health
- we have to do this because things are getting so bad, it would help B.

B: Reducing traffic congestion and improving traffic flow ...

Because if the traffic were moving there would be less emissions in the air.

Question 10

10. Which programs do you think are most effective to reduce the amount of emissions? (Select as many as you think will reduce emissions.)	
A. Subsidize purchase of newer/cleaner vehicles	10
B. Provide more/cheaper public transit	16
C. Develop awareness campaign to encourage people to reduce fossil fuel use	8
D. Build more bike paths and sidewalks	15
E. Funding incentives to cities to allow more development near transit	3
F. Support local traffic signal timing coordination	7

- Get the older cars off the road, I like A.
- If I could afford a hybrid, I would buy one. If they subsidized it, I could buy one.
- I like B because getting more people to use fewer cars.
- I like C because we need to reach out to more people.
- I like D. My husband has a bike and takes it to work. Safety is important for bikes.
- I like D, in our area, it's not safe to ride a bike. We need more bike paths for safety and to places we need to go. Better sidewalks.
- Make places cleaner, like Oak Grove, there is a lot of debris and holes and the cars go by really fast. It's an area where children walk by to go to school. Create new paths for kids to school.
- I like E. It goes back to a previous questions....smart growth is good.
- I like F because if we have timing coordination we will spend less time, and make less smog.
- They are all good.
- C is silly...who is using fossil fuel? It's so expensive...
- In Mexico City we have two alternatives. The main boulevards are timed for traffic flow. We have classified license plates...even or odd numbers have priority every other day. They can leave earlier and get priority during peak periods.
- In Mexico City only in the federal district can the priority people drive on certain days. Similar to previous comment.
- Gas rationing in the '70s...we may get back to that.

Question 11

11. How much of the \$30 billion dollar budget should be spent on maintaining local streets and roads, state highways, and public transit systems?	
A. Up to 25% (\$7.5 billion)	8
B. Up to 50% (\$15 billion)	9
C. Up to 75% (\$22.5 billion)	1
D. 100% (\$30 billion)	0

- I changed my mind. I had B and now I want A. I think that we should try new strategies and think broader. People won't let the system fall apart.

Question 12

12. Thinking ahead to the year 2035, if you had \$30 billion, how much would you spend on each of the following projects to prepare for our regional transportation needs? To make it simpler, let's change the \$30 billion to \$30. Out of the \$30, please fill in the dollar amount you would spend for each area.	
A. Maintenance of existing roads and systems	\$125
B. Relief of traffic congestion	\$47
C. Provide transportation funds to cities that develop housing near transit	\$69
D. Provide access to public transit systems for all Bay Area residents	\$99
E. Reducing automobile emissions	\$57

Question 13

13. Now that we've done the budget, would you favor pursuing new revenues to increase the funding?	
A. Yes	8
B. No	9

- No, revenues mean a lot of things.
- No, because they are going to raise taxes and things are going to go up like question 14.

Question 14

14. Which of the following new revenue sources would you support? (Multiple answers are okay.)	
A. Regional gas fee	2
B. Higher bridge toll	0
C. Road tolls	0
D. Vehicle registration fees	4
E. County transportation sales taxes	1
F. Other new revenues	1
G. No new fees or increases	12

- If you buy a Prius or an electric car you save energy. Use vehicle fees to subsidize the purchase of new vehicles or to do other energy saving measures.
- Arnold's personal check...he can pay. Don't take money from the state.